From the Superintendent: Empowering all voices to build a stronger community

We’re just days away from the 2019-20 school year and there’s so much to look forward to.

For me, there are few experiences more exciting than being inside a school when the doors open on the first day. Hallways that had been silent suddenly burst to life with hundreds of kids – their backpacks stuffed with carefully labeled school supplies - rushing toward their classroom, waving at friends, and greeting their new teacher along the way. They hunt for their new desk then measure how far it is from their best friend.

In just a few minutes the school transformed from a quiet, empty building to a hub for learning, adventure, and growth. It’s an exhilarating moment that I’ve had been lucky enough to experience more than 20 times as a teacher, principal, and superintendent.

This year, the district will use that joyous spark to ignite the big conversations we will have around our strategic plan and equity in education.

If you’ve visited our buildings, you may have noticed the framed document highlighting our goals for student achievement, learning conditions, resources, staff, and family and community. This is the district’s strategic plan: the guiding document that ensures all our decisions match our goals and values.

We review this plan each year, and every five years we engage in a major overhaul of the strategic plan. This fall, we will delve into a deep examination of how we are carrying out our mission to our students and this community. You can learn more about this strategic plan review and update on page 2.

One of the questions I know we will be asking is: how are we ensuring that we have an environment that creates opportunities for each of the more than 2,200 students in our district? If we truly want every student to succeed, how are we providing an education that is accessible to every student - no matter their disability, cultural background, physical abilities, household income, race, or learning style?

This answer won’t just be a slogan we hang on a wall; it will be sewn into the fabric of our work so we can be confident that we are empowering every student and helping each one excel.

A big part of that work will be hearing from the most important people in our district: the students. I’m very proud that CCSD 89 will be one of the first districts in the state to have eighth graders serving as Student Representatives to the Board of Education. Ashley Krebs and Emily Puchalski have been selected as the first CCSD 89 Student Board Members. You can learn more about these two amazing leaders on page 4 of this newsletter.

These young women will present a student perspective at each of our meetings. They will also be in touch with our new student leadership group at Glen Crest Middle School, who will work with school administrators on solutions to problems affecting all students.

I believe this experience will instill a passion in our students to be actively involved citizens who give back to our community.

As you can see, there is much to be excited about in 2019-20. We thank you for your support of our students and welcome you to join us on this journey of learning for life!

Superintendent Dr. Emily K. Tammaru

Welcome back! School starts in CCSD 89 on August 14

The 2019-20 school year will start with a half day (morning attendance) on Wednesday, August 14, for CCSD 89 students. (The first day of preschool at Arbor View will be August 14. The first day of preschool at Briar Glen will be August 15.)

A full calendar of events is available on the district’s website at: www.ccsd89.org/calendar

School times
Elementary: 8:50 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Glen Crest: 7:50 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.
Preschool: 8:30 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.
12:30 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.
Preschool specialized academic classrooms: 8:50 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Half-day dismissal
Middle school: 11:15 a.m.
Elementary: 11:50 a.m.

Curriculum nights
Arbor View: August 29, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Briar Glen: August 28, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Park View: September 5, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Westfield: August 21, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Glen Crest: August 22, 6:30 - 9 p.m.
6:30 p.m. PSAT info for 8th graders 7-9 p.m. open to all grades

Back-to-school resources
School supplies www.ccsd89.org/supplies
Transportation info www.ccsd89.org/transportation
Lunch menus / payments www.ccsd89.org/lunch
Upcoming events www.ccsd89.org/calendar
District news www.ccsd89.org/news
Students, staff, community can share input during review of strategic plan

CCSD 89 will be updating the document that serves as the guidepost for the district’s work. During the 2019-20 school year, students, parents, staff, and community members will work together to revise and update the district’s strategic plan.

The strategic plan ensures that all decisions are aligned with the goals and visions for the district. The district reviews and tweaks the strategic plan each year. Every five years, the district conducts a comprehensive review of the strategic plan, which is then submitted to the Board of Education for approval.

More information about the strategic plan work will be shared during the school year. Any community members who are interested in participating in the strategic plan work can send an email to info@ccsd89.org. In addition to serving on the strategic plan committee, there will be opportunities for the community to provide input through focus groups and online surveys.

CCSD 89 returns to First Student for regular education busing services

CCSD 89 will once again use First Student – the company that served CCSD 89 for decades – to run morning and afternoon bus routes for regular-education students. First Student’s safety record is twice the industry average and the company has been awarded the Green Cross for Safety by the National Safety Council – the highest safety award for safety in North America.

First Student will provide 14 new buses for CCSD 89 routes, a bus terminal that is closer to district boundaries, and the latest technology and safety features that are available. First Student’s familiarity with the district will mean families should only see minor changes to their busing service. The most significant difference will likely be that many of the routes have a different driver than they had during the 2018-19 school year. Prior to the start of school, each First Student driver will conduct multiple practice runs along their route, so they are familiar with the neighborhoods, streets, and traffic in the community. The bus routes will remain largely the same.

As in the past, the district will try to select stops that allow groups of students to board together and buses to run efficient routes that avoid dangerous crossings. Each year, the district makes small adjustments to routes based on new students, construction, and other factors.

Schools will communicate routes about one week before the first day of school (August 14). Once the school year has begun, if you have questions about your route, please contact your school office. Back to school is always a hectic time as families adjust to getting to their stops on time. There could be slight delays during the first few days but students will arrive at school on time. Families are encouraged to have their student arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled arrival time, when possible. Special education transportation will continue to be managed by Hopewell Transportation.

All families are encouraged to review the bus safety rules in the transportation section of the Student/Parent Handbook which can be found at: www.ccsd89.org/handbook

Save a life! Residents invited to donate blood Aug. 28 at Glen Crest

With more local permanent blood centers closing, Glen Crest Middle School has become a regular host site for blood drives organized by Heartland Blood Centers. Everyone in the community is invited to donate blood at Glen Crest.

Glen Crest will host its next blood drive from 2 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 28. Appointments will be honored first.

Blood donation is a simple four-step process: registration, medical history, donation, and refreshments. Blood donation usually takes about 10 to 12 minutes. The entire process, from arrival to exit, takes about an hour.

Heartland Blood Centers provide blood to hospitals across the country. The lives of approximately 4.5 million Americans are saved each year by blood transfusions. About 38,000 pints of donated blood are used every day in the U.S.

Spotlight on 89

Disability Awareness Week

Last year, all CCSD 89 schools participated in a Disability Awareness Week. Throughout the district, students engaged in activities that challenged their thinking about visible and hidden disabilities. Find out what students - and teachers - learned during this powerful week of learning at www.ccsd89.org/aware

YMCA offers before- and after-school care

The B.R. Ryall YMCA will again offer before- and after-school care for elementary school students in CCSD 89. The before-school program runs from 6:30 a.m. until the start of school. After-school programs run from dismissal until 6 p.m. Limited spaces are available. More info about the programs and how to register is available at www.ccsd89.org/ymca.

New to CCSD 89? Get registered ASAP

If your family recently moved into CCSD 89, be sure to get your students registered for the 2019-20 school year as soon as possible. Families can start the process by filling out pre-registration forms online.

Registration info can be found at www.ccsd.org/register. Parents/guardians without Internet access may register at the district office, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn.

Once pre-registration is complete, families will receive a SnapCode, which is used to complete registration. Your child’s enrollment will not be guaranteed until the entire registration process has been completed and submitted.
Arbor View, Park View welcome new principals

Arbor View and Park View elementary schools will have new principals to start the 2019-20 school year.

Kristie Mate is the new principal of Park View Elementary. She replaces Barb Peterson, who retired after 20 years in education.

Emily Burnett is the new principal at Arbor View Elementary. She replaces Dr. David Bruno, who accepted an administrative position at a Berwyn school district.

Emily Burnett
Emily Burnett knows CCSD 89 very well. Prior to being hired at Arbor View, she was the Administrator of Programs and Services for the Cooperative Association for Special Education (CASE).

CASE provides expertise and resources to school districts on social-emotional learning, instruction, assessment, special education, technology, and more. CASE serves students, parents, and staff from seven local districts, including CCSD 89.

“I’m excited that the Arbor View students and families will get to work with this incredibly talented educator,” said CCSD 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily K. Tammaru. “Emily Burnett believes in the potential of every student and has spent her career ensuring that each child is ready to learn every day.”

Prior to CASE, she taught in a self-contained classroom at Briar Glen Elementary School in CCSD 89, where she also completed a principal internship program. In August 2015, she was named an Illinois Inspiring Educator of the Year.

“I love working in education because I love to see the spark children get when they learn,” Burnett said. “Arbor View feels like home to me. When you walk into the building, you can tell the students and the staff are excited about learning. This is a place I really want to be.”

Burnett has a Masters in School Leadership from Concordia University and a Special Education Director Endorsement from Lewis University. She earned her Bachelors Degree in Special Education from Elmhurst College.

To see a video introduction of Burnett, go to: www.ccsd89.org/emilyburnett

Kristie Mate
Prior to joining CCSD 89, Kristie Mate was the Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction at Drauden Point Middle School in Plainfield. While at Drauden, Mate focused on developing strong curriculum and instructional practices; organizing and implementing special education programming; and ensuring that all disciplinary processes are also learning experiences for students.

“Kristie’s passion for education and helping all students succeed was evident,” said CCSD 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily Tammaru. “Kristie believes in supporting teachers and parents to ensure a well-rounded, positive learning environment where every child can succeed.”

Mate loves the energy that comes from being in a school full of young learners. She’s thrilled to work with Park View staff to help each student reach his or her full potential.

“Everyone talks about the parent involvement and close-knit community at Park View. That’s very exciting,” Mate said. “I’m looking forward to meeting the community and continuing that positive direction.”

Mate has a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Francis and Master’s Degree in Special Education from Lewis University. She has teaching certifications as a Learning Behavior Specialist and in Administration. In 2017, Mate was named the Assistant Principal of the Year in the 3 Rivers Region.

To see a video introduction of Mate, go to: www.ccsd89.org/kristiemate
CCSD 89 student spotlight: Ashley Krebs and Emily Puchalski

Glen Crest eighth grade students selected as district’s first Student Representatives to Board of Education

Glen Crest Middle School eighth grade students Ashley Krebs and Emily Puchalski were selected to serve as the first-ever Student Representatives to the Board of Education in Community Consolidated School District 89.

“We are thrilled to bring the views of the people we serve to our Board table,” said CCSD 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily K. Tammaru. “There were so many incredible students who applied for this position. Ashley and Emily stood out for their commitment to serving students at all levels.”

The Student Board Members will represent their classmates at the monthly Board of Education meetings. While the Student Board Members will not vote, they will provide important insights on life as a student in CCSD 89.

CCSD 89 is one of the first districts to have middle school students serving as Student Board Members.

ASHLEY KREBS

Ashley’s teachers describe her as an open-minded, non-judgmental listener who tries to be a voice for all students.

“Ashley’s compassion for her peers, school, and community is unrivaled,” wrote Glen Crest physical education teacher Kelly Nordlund. “Ashley is a voice for those who cannot speak and a quiet leader – always doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.”

Ashley, 13, has been part of the Best Buddies program, Builders Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, PRISM Club, Student Union, and Teen Advisory Board. She worked on publicity for last year’s school play and helped score Glen Crest track meets. She plays on the Glen Crest volleyball team and plays elite softball through the Chicago Bulls/Sox Youth Academy.

EMILY PUCHALSKI

As a Student Board Member, Emily wants to find ways to connect with students well beyond her friends at Glen Crest.

“T’m really excited to be able to work with everyone and hear their voices,” Emily said.

Emily has been part of the Best Buddies program, Builders Club, the drama production, Math Club, orchestra, Social Studies Club, and Teen Advisory Board. Outside of school, she volunteers at Brookdale Senior Living and plays tennis. She has also volunteered at Park View Elementary and participated in the district’s Cultural Fair. She is involved in the local Polish community and runs her own child-care business.

“Emiyl is a leader at heart,” wrote Glen Crest seventh grade science department chair Maggie Moran. “Emily is organized, honest, and an amazing team leader. She will help to make not only Glen Crest a better place to be, but our district as a whole.”

Ashley Krebs (left) and Emily Puchalski